Non-Optimum utilisation of Costly Radar

2465. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the utilisation of radar installed in August, 1992, at a initial cost of Rs. 15.39 crore continue to be sub-optimal despite incurring an additional expenditure of Rs. 1.89 crore in May, 1997;

(b) whether the radar has been installed at a distance of only 100 metre from the sea whereas it should have been installed at a distance of 100 sq. km.;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) After software modification in 1997, the overall performance of the radar improved. The radar has since been shifted to another location where it is functioning satisfactorily.

(b) to (d) The radar was installed at the initial site as a replacement for an earlier radar, at a distance of 100 metres from the sea. The site was selected on the basis of operational needs/ experience and availability of infra-structure.

High Alert in Ordnance Factories

†2466. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to declare high alert in all ordnance factories of the country in view of the present situation prevailing in the country and the world;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Being vital defence production units, security in Ordnance Factories is even in normal circumstances tight. The degree of alertness does vary depending upon assessments of the prevailing situation and has been heightened because of the present situation.

Procurement of Helicopter rings during 1992-96

2467. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had procured 820 helicopter rings during 1992-96;

(b) if so, the total value thereof;

(c) whether these rings are still lying unused; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against those responsible for such an avoidable procurement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of the rings procured was Rs. 1.70 crores.

(c) and (d) Presently, some of the rings are held in stock, which will be consumed during the course of normal overhaul, These rings are required for use on MI-8/MI-17 helicopters and they will be consumed over the next few years.

Resettlement of widows of Kargil Martyrs

†2468. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the work pertaining to resettlement of Kargil martyrs' widows;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.